

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00731 190830Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 IO-13 MCT-01 ARA-10 /116 W
-----034346 200209Z /61

R 181130Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5508
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0731

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, LY, US
SUBJECT: LIBYA-US RELATIONS

REF: TRIPOLI 0719 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING DEPARTMENT OF AMERICAS DIRECTOR JERBE'S
PRESENTATION TO ME ON LIBYAN VERSION OF CHAD SITUATION,
DISCUSSION INEVITABLY TURNED TO US-LIBYAN BILATERAL RELATIONS.

2. JERBE EXPRESSED GREAT GRATITUDE AT NEWS THAT DELAY IN
ISSUANCE OF STUDENT VISAS HAD ENDED. HE SAID THAT HE HAD
INSTRUCTED LIBYAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO SEEK TO IMPROVE
ITS OWN VISA ISSUING PROCEDURES FOR US CITIZENS.

3. I TOOK OCCASION TO FILL HIM IN, IN SOMEWHAT MORE DETAIL,
ON RECENT SENATE HEARINGS ON TERRORISM AND DEGREE TO WHICH
THEY REFLECT THE GREAT SENSITIVITY OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC
OVER THIS ISSUE. JERBE REHEARSED STANDARD LIBYAN LINE.
LIBYA DOES NOT SUPPORT TERRORISM, IT DOES ADHERE TO
PERTINENT UN RESOLUTIONS AND THAT THERE IS A GREAT DISTINC-
TION BETWEEN SYMPATHY FOR PALESTINIANS AND SUPPORT FOR
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TERRORISM. I POINTED OUT THAT CERTAIN PALESTINIANS, SUCH AS
GEORGE HABASH AND HIS FOLLOWERS, COULD NOT BE CLASSIFIED AS
ORDINARY PALESTINIAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS. AS A MATTER OF
RECORD, THE HABASH GROUP HAVE TAKEN CREDIT FOR TERRORIST
OPERATIONS FAR FROM THE BATTLEFIELDS OF PALESTINE. HIS
FREQUENT VISITS TO LIBYA, I SAID, ONLY CONFIRMED THE
BELIEF THAT LIBYA SUPPORTED SUCH ACTIVITIES. JERBE AGREED

THAT HABASH DID COME AND GO BUT ASSURED ME THAT LIBYA
PROVIDED NO MATERIAL SUPPORT TO HIS OPERATIONS.

4. IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT A CAREER DIPLOMAT FROM
FAIRLY DISTINGUISHED FAMILY SUCH AS JERBE ACTUALLY BELIEVES
WHAT HE IS SAYING. ONE CAN ONLY HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT HE WILL
PASS ON EXPRESSIONS OF US CONCERN.
CARLE

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